

Appendix F: Two Form Letters Received During Scoping Period

Form Letter #1

In response to the BLM's request for comments on the scope of the environmental impact statement being prepared in support of the revised land use plan for the Great Divide area, I urge you to fully consider, analyze, and adopt the Western Heritage Alternative as the plan to guide the Great Divide's future.

The Western Heritage Alternative is endorsed by hunters, ranchers, and businesses as well as conservation groups. As a part owner of these lands, I urge the BLM to commit to protecting the irreplaceable wildlife resources in the Great Divide area, such as the huge herds of pronghorn antelope, and rarer species such as mountain plover, burrowing owls, and ferruginous hawks. Similarly, potential wilderness resources in the area such as Wild Cow Creek, the Ferris Mountains addition, the Pedro Mountains, and the lands surrounding Adobe Town should be studied and protected as wilderness study areas.

Above all, the BLM must ensure that oil and gas development in the Great Divide area is done in an environmentally responsible manner, and prohibit development in inappropriate and sensitive parts of this area (critical wildlife habitats, potential wilderness areas, etc.). The BLM also must ensure strong protections for other resources where drilling occurs, and require oil companies to utilize the best available technology, such as directional drilling techniques, to minimize environmental harm.

Form Letter #2

I am writing in response to the BLM's request for comments on the scope of the environmental impact statement being prepared in support of the revised land use plan for the Rawlins Field Office (the Great Divide area).

I support the Western Heritage Alternative that is endorsed by hunters, ranchers, businesses and conservation groups. It is critical that you give strong emphasis to protecting the irreplaceable wildlife resources in the Great Divide area, such as the huge herds of pronghorn antelope, and more rare species such as mountain plover, burrowing owls, and ferruginous hawks.

BLM must ensure that oil and gas development in the Great Divide area is done in a sustainable and responsible manner that recognizes and protects other resources and values. Thank you for considering these comments.